

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

HÖTTEN et al.

Serial No.: unknown

Filed: August 20, 1999

For: GROWTH/DIFFERENTIATION FACTORS OF THE TGF- $\beta$  FAMILY



**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

August 25, 1999

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to the examination of this application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly cancel claims 1-19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims to the application.

--20. An antibody or antibody fragment which specifically binds to a protein of the TGF- $\beta$  family wherein said protein is encoded by a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the following group:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1,
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to the nucleotide sequence of (a), and
- (c) fragments of (a) or (b) which encode a protein which has essentially the same